Death of a Bank Employee due to bursting of a BCCL Tank

2348. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item of the 8th December, 1988 in *Jansatta* a Hindi daily published from New Delhi about the death of a bank employee on the 11th May, 1983 due to bursting of a BCCL tank and the alleged refusal of both the Energy Ministry and the Ministry of Finance *to help the dependents of the deceased;*

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to compensate the family of the victim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sri Sasantha Sarkar, who died on account of bursting of a water tank, was an employee of the State Bank of India. The deceased was a bachelor and did not leave behind any sister or brother who could be considered for employment by the S.B.I. The Bank could also not pay any compensation as under rules the compensation can be paid only in such cases where serving employees die while on duty. At the time of his death Sri Sarkar was not on duty in connection with the affairs of the SBI. Since Sri Sarkar was not an employee of BCCL the coal company is also not in a position to offer appointment to his nephew on compassionate grounds. However, as a very special case, BCCL has sanctioned an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 15,000/- to the dependent of late Sarkar purely on humanitarian grounds considering the fact that Sri Sarkar's death took place in company's colony due to bursting of water carrying tank belonging to the company.

Back-door Employment in BCCL

2349. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared on the 6th June, 1989 in 'AZ', a daily published from Dhanbad alleging Ministerial connections behind one contractor and back-door employment of the sons of the VIPs in BCCL, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that no contradiction was issued to these allegations by BCCL management; and

(c) what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain allegations have been brought out in the concerned news item against son of the Minister of State (Coal) and a Congress M.P., who are said to be deriving illegal benefits in numerous ways by exercising their power and influence over the officials of the BCCL. On enquiry, however, it has been found that no undue favour has been extended to the concerned M.P. in the matter of employment of his son to an executive assignment in the CIL. The contracts are awarded through open tendering to parties on merit after observance of all necessary formalities. No undue favour is extended to any party or person for extraneous considerations.

(b) and (c) Company has not considered it necessary to contradict the allegations which have been found to be baseless and untrue.